

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-06 /012 R

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APPROVED BY A/SY/FO - MARTIN K. DALTON, ACTING

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R 201837Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

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FOR RSO FROM SY/FO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: MARINE SECURITY GUARD

REF: PANAMA'S 2608

1. REVIEW OF EMBASSY'S TELEGRAM RAISES SEVERAL QUESTIONS:

A. REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICER REFERS TO THE NEED TO PROTECT THE CLASSIFIED IN CONSULATE AND COMMERCIAL LIBRARY. THE AMOUNT OF CLASSIFIED APPEARS TO BE MINIMAL IN BOTH OFFICES, AND DOES NOT REQUIRE A MARINE GUARD DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS BECAUSE OF THE PRESENCE OF CLEARED U.S. PERSONNEL WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE.

B. THE REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICER DOES NOT INDICATE ANY SPECIAL PROTECTIVE MEASURES TO SCREEN VISA APPLICANTS IN THE CONSULAR SECTION OR PHYSICAL SECURITY MEASURES TO PROTECT CONSULAR PERSONNEL OR THE AMERICANS IN THE COMMERCIAL LIBRARY.

C. EXPERIENCE SHOWS THAT TRAINED AND COMPETENT LOCAL  
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GUARDS WHERE THEY ARE AVAILABLE, GENERALLY ARE MORE EFFECT-

IVE IN DEALING WITH LARGE NUMBERS OF VISITORS SEEKING VISAS, BECAUSE KNOWLEDGE OF LOCAL PEOPLE AND LANGUAGE CAPABILITY, ECT.

D. THE TELEGRAM UNDER REFERENCE SEEMS TO CONFUSE PROTECTION OF PERSONNEL WITH PROTECTION OF CLASSIFIED. THE CONCERN IN BOTH THE CONSULAR SECTION AND COMMERCIAL LIBRARY IS ALMOST ENTIRELY PROTECTION OF PERSONNEL PARTICULARLY DURING DAY TIME HOURS.

E. ADDITIONALLY, THIS OFFICE DOES NOT UNDERSTAND THE MARINE GUARD CONDUCTING EVENING INSPECTIONS OF THE RESIDENCE OR THE RMO OFFICE, ALTHOUGH A SPOT CHECK OF THE LATTER AT INFREQUENT INTERVALS MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE.

2. THE PRESENCE OF A LOCAL CONTRACT GUARD DURING THE HOURS WHEN THE CONSULAR SECTION IS OPEN IS RECOMMENDED. PHYSICAL SECURITY SAFEGUARDS SHOULD ALSO BE PLANNED FOR THIS SECTION TO PROVIDE SOME BARRIER BETWEEN THE APPLICANTS AND THE EMPLOYEES. THE MINIMUM AMOUNT OF CLASSIFIED, CLEARED U.S. PRESENCE, AND THE USE OF SAFES, MATERIALLY WEAKENS ANY JUSTIFICATION FOR FURTHER SAFEGUARDS FOR CLASSIFIED IN THE CONSULAR SECTION. LOCK UP AND CHAR ESCORT IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE CONSULATE CLOSES AT 2:30 P.M. WOULD ALSO MINIMIZE THE GUARD PROBLEM.

3. THE SAME RATIONALE WOULD APPLY TO THE COMMERCIAL LIBRARY.

4. FINALLY, SEVEN (7) WATCHSTANDERS SHOULD BE ABLE TO CONTROL ACCESS TO THE EMBASSY, CHECK THE AID AND USIS OFFICES, PROVIDE ESCORT OF CHARS AND ADDITIONAL CLOSE OF BUSINESS SECURITY INSPECTIONS FOR THE EMBASSY.

ROBINSON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 20 APR 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** coburnhl  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** coburnhl  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 21 JUL 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <21 JUL 2004 by MartinML>; APPROVED <02 NOV 2004 by coburnhl>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MARINE SECURITY GUARD  
**TAGS:** ASEC  
**To:** PANAMA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006